

Bumthang language

The **Bumthang language** (Dzongkha: འུམ་ཐང་ཁ་, *Wylie*: *bum thang kha*); also called "Bhumtam", "Bumtang(kha)", "Bumtanp", "Bumthapkha", and "Kebumtamp") is an East Bodish language spoken by about 20,000 people in Bumthang and surrounding districts of Bhutan.^{[3][4]} Van Driem (1993) describes Bumthang as the dominant language of central Bhutan.^[4]

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Bumthang	
Region	Bhutan
Native speakers	20,000 (2011) ^[1]
Language family	<div>Sino-Tibetan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tibeto-Kanauri ?<ul style="list-style-type: none">Bodish<ul style="list-style-type: none">East Bodish<ul style="list-style-type: none">Bumthang</div>
Writing system	Tibetan alphabet
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	kjz
Glottolog	bumt1240 (http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/bumt1240) ^[2]

Related languages

Historically, Bumthang and its speakers have had close contact with speakers of the Kurtöp, Nupbi and Kheng languages, nearby East Bodish languages of central and eastern Bhutan, to the extent that they may be considered part of a wider collection of "Bumthang languages."^{[5][6][7]}

Bumthang language is largely lexically similar with Kheng (92%), Nyen (75%–77%), and Kurtöp (70%–73%); but less so with Dzongkha (47%–52%) and Tshangla (40%–50%, also called "Sharchop").^[3] It is either closely related to or identical with the Tawang language of the Monpa people of Tawang in India and China.^[3]

Grammar

Bumthang is an ergative–absolutive language. The ergative case is not used on every transitive subject, but, like in so many other languages of the region shows some optionality, discussed in detail by Donohue & Donohue (2016).^[8]

Personal pronouns in Bumthang^[9]

	Absolutive		Ergative	
	singular	plural	singular	plural
1st	ngat	nget	ngai (ngaile)	ngei (ngeile)
2st	wet	yin	wi (wile)	yinle
3rd	khit	bot	khi (khile)	boi (boile)

See also

- [Languages of Bhutan](#)
- [Bumthang District](#)
- [Bumthang Province](#)
- [Kingdom of Bumthang](#)

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9. van Driem 1995, p. 13.

Bibliography

- van Driem, George (1995). *Grammar of Bumthang - A Language of Central Bhutan*. Dzongkha Development Commission.

External links

- [Bumthang language project](https://www.linguistics.hku.hk/bumthang) (<https://www.linguistics.hku.hk/bumthang>)
 - [Himalayan Languages Project](http://www.himalayanlanguages.org/) (<http://www.himalayanlanguages.org/>)
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